

REMARKS

By this amendment, applicants have amended claim 12 to be in independent form by including therein all of the limitations of claims 1 and 11, from which claim 12 previously depended. Accordingly, claims 1 and 11 have been canceled with prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 28 has been rewritten to be in independent form by including therein all of the limitations of claims 1 and 13, from which claim 28 previously depended. Claim 31 has been amended to be in independent form by including therein all of the limitations of claim 30, from which claim 31 previously depended. Accordingly, claim 30 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants have amended claims 3 - 6, 8 - 10 and 13 to depend from now independent claim 12. Claims 31 - 34 have been amended to depend from now independent claim 31.

Since the foregoing amendments merely cancel claims, rewrite claims in independent form and amend dependencies of claims, the amendments do not raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search. Moreover, noting that claims 12, 28 and 31 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, that these claims have now been rewritten in independent form, and that the rejected claims have either been canceled or amended to ultimately depend from one of these claims, it is submitted the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance or, at least, in better form for consideration on appeal. Accordingly, entry of this amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is requested.

In view of the cancellation of claims 1, 11 and 30, and the amendments to the dependency of the remaining rejected claims, it is submitted the rejections in numbered sections 3, 4 and 5 of the office action are moot.

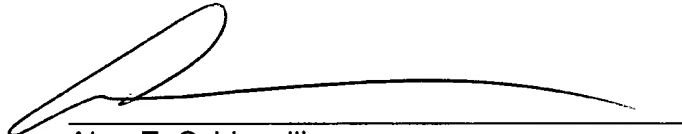
Applicants note the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 12, 28 and 31 and the allowance of claims 19 - 27. In view of the foregoing amendments, it is submitted all of the claims now in the application are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, entry of this amendment and favorable reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims now in the application are requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 912.39939X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan E. Schiavelli', is written over a horizontal line.

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